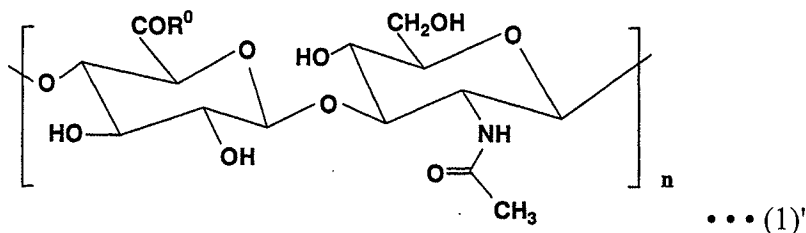


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

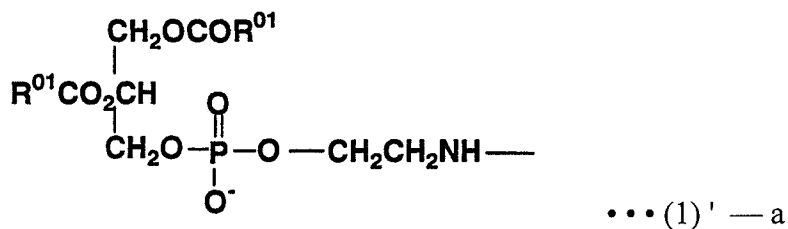
**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1)':



wherein  $R^0$  is a group represented by the following formula (1)'-a, -OH or -ONa,



wherein  $R^{01}$  is an alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms, and  $n$  is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100% 1 to 50% of  $R^0$  is the group represented by the above formula (1)'-a, said hyaluronic acid compound showing a complex elastic modulus of more than 200 Pa with its hydrogel having a concentration of 3 wt%.

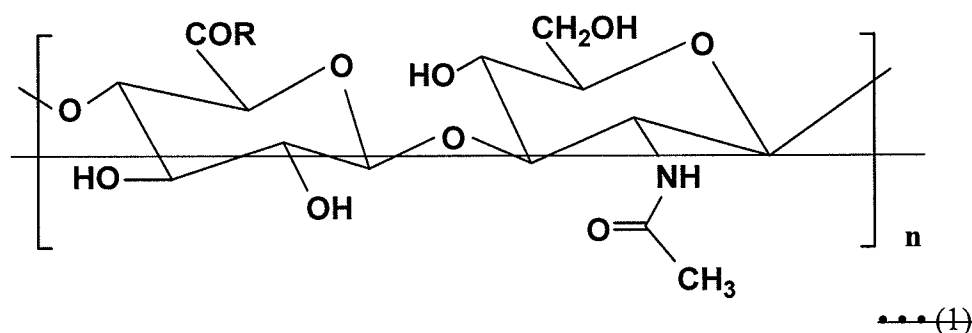
2. (original): The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein  $n$  is 300 to 30,000.

3. (previously presented): The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein two R<sup>01</sup>CO-'s in the formula (1)'-a are both oleoyl groups.

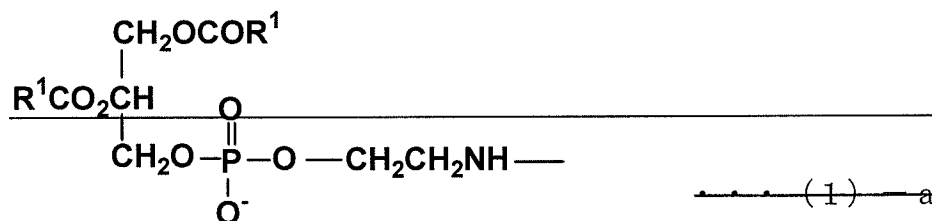
4. (original): A hydrogel of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. (original): A molded form of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.

6. (currently amended): A joint treating material comprising a hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula-(1): (1)':

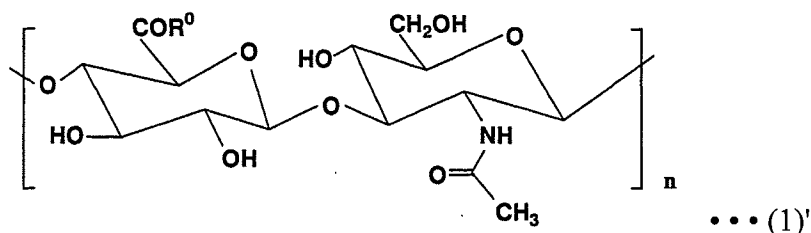


wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1) a, OH or ONa,

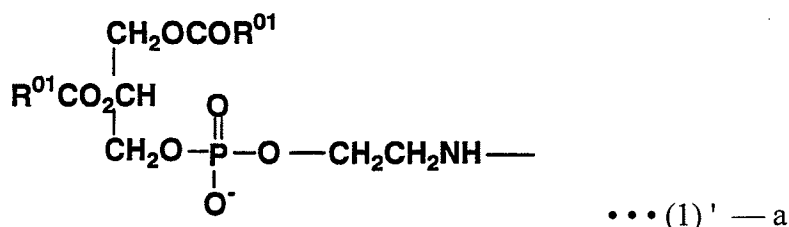


wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms,

and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group represented by the above formula (1)-a



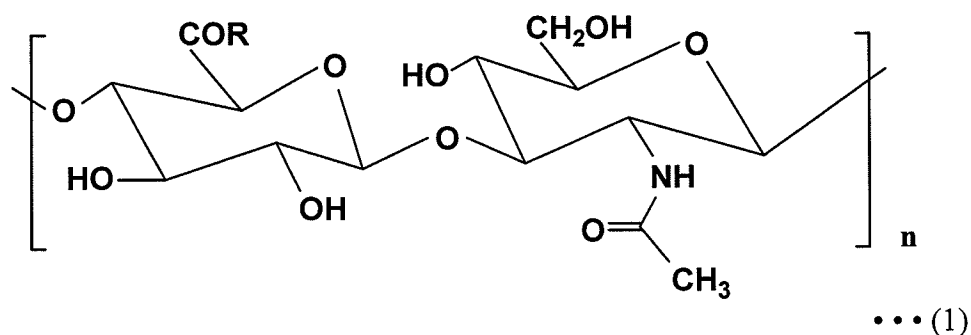
wherein  $R^0$  is a group represented by the following formula (1)'-a, -OH or -ONa,



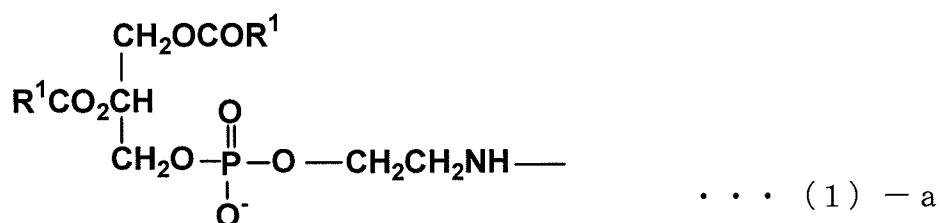
wherein  $R^{01}$  is an alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms, and  $n$  is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 50% of  $R^0$  is the group represented by the above formula (1)'-a, said hyaluronic acid compound showing a complex elastic modulus of more than 200 Pa with its hydrogel having a concentration of 3 wt%.

7. (previously presented): The joint treating material according to claim 6, wherein  $R^1$  is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 14 to 20 carbon atoms and  $n$  is an integer of 1,000 to 10,000.

8. (previously presented): A method of using a hyaluronic acid compound comprising inserting a joint treating material prepared from a hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1)-a, -OH or -ONa,



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms,

and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group represented by the above formula (1)-a,

into the joint of a patient.

9. (previously presented): The molded form of claim 5, wherein the molded form is a sponge, nonwoven cloth or film.